

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently amended) A method of analyzing a moving pictures expert group (MPEG)-formatted video/audio file, comprising:

retrieving, by a processing element, a rule set that includes an MPEG rule and a compatibility rule, said MPEG rule defining a format requirement for the file to be decoded by a first type of MPEG-capable decoder, and the compatibility rule defining a format requirement for the file to be decoded by a second type of MPEG-capable decoder;

reading, by the processing element, a portion of the file;

comparing, by the processing element, the portion of the file with the MPEG and compatibility rules contained in the rule set, the rule set not contained in said file; and

based on said comparing the portion of the file with the MPEG and compatibility rules, determining, by the processing element, whether the file violates any of the MPEG and compatibility rules contained in the rule set; and

as a result of determining that the file violates any of the MPEG and compatibility rules, performing, by the processing element, at least one of transcoding the file and alerting a user as to the violation.

2. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the MPEG rule comprises a parameter for addressing the portion of the file.

3. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 2, wherein the parameter specifies a bit rate of the file.

4. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein at least one of the rules comprises at least one parameter logically defining a standardized format requirement.

5. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein at least one of the rules comprises at least one parameter logically defining a MPEG format requirement.

6. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the compatibility rule comprises at least one parameter logically defining a digital versatile disc (DVD) format requirement.

7. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein reading a portion of the file comprises locating a sequence header of the file.

8. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein comparing the portion of the file comprises determining whether the file comprises a group of pictures (GOP) header, and wherein performing at least one of transcoding and alerting occurs based upon determining that a GOP header is not present in the file.

9. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 1, further wherein performing at least one of transcoding and alerting comprises transcoding the file based upon determining the file violates any of the rules.

10. (Currently amended) A system for analyzing a moving pictures expert group (MPEG)-formatted file, comprising:

a format analysis application; and

a processing element operable to execute the application, the application reading a rule set that includes an MPEG rule and a compatibility rule, said MPEG rule defining a format requirement for the file to be decoded by a first

type of MPEG-capable decoder, and the compatibility rule defining a format requirement for the file to be decoded by a second type of MPEG-capable decoder;

wherein the application is configured to compare the file to the rules and to transcode the file based upon a determination that the file violates at least one of the rules.

11. (Previously presented) The system according to claim 10, wherein at least one of the rules defines a moving pictures expert group (MPEG) format requirement.

12. (Previously presented) The system according to claim 10, wherein the compatibility rule comprises defines a digital versatile disc (DVD) format requirement.

13. (Previously presented) The system according to claim 10, wherein the application is adapted to compare a bit rate of the file with the MPEG rule.

14. (Previously presented) The system according to claim 10, wherein the compatibility rule specifies whether the file must comprise a group of pictures (GOP) header.

15. (Canceled).

16. (Original) The system according to claim 10, wherein the application is adapted to read the file to determine a location of a sequence header of the file.

17. (Original) The system according to claim 10, wherein the application is adapted to determine whether the file comprises a group of pictures disposed between a sequence start code and a sequence end code of the file.

18. (Currently amended) A computer-readable ~~medium~~-memory unit having stored thereon an instruction set to be executed, the instruction set, when executed by a processor, causes the processor to:

read a rule set that includes an MPEG rule and a compatibility rule, said MPEG rule defining a format requirement for the file to be decoded by a first type of MPEG-capable decoder, and the compatibility rule defining a format requirement for the file to be decoded by a second type of MPEG-capable decoder;

read a portion of the MPEG-formatted file;

compare the portion with the rule set; and

based on said comparison of the portion of the file with the MPEG and compatibility rules, determine whether the portion violates any of the rules in the rule set; and

as a result of a determination that the file violates any of the MPEG and compatibility rules, perform at least one of transcoding the file and alerting a user as to the violation.

19. (Currently amended) The computer-readable memory unit ~~medium~~ according to claim 18, wherein at least one of the rules defines a MPEG format requirement.

20. (Currently amended) The computer-readable memory unit ~~medium~~ according to claim 18, wherein the compatibility rule logically defines a digital versatile disc (DVD) format requirement.

21. (Currently amended) The computer-readable memory unit ~~medium~~ according to claim 18, wherein the instruction set, when executed by the processor, causes the processor to determine whether the file comprises a group of pictures (GOP) header.

22. (Currently amended) The computer-readable memory unit medium according to claim 18, wherein the instruction set, when executed by the processor, causes the processor to locate a sequence header of the file.

23. (Currently amended) The computer readable memory unit medium according to claim 14, instruction set, when executed by the processor, causes the processor to transcode the file if the file violates at least one of the rules in the rule set.

24. (Currently amended) The computer-readable memory unit medium according to claim 18, wherein the instruction set, when executed by the processor, causes the processor to determine whether the file comprises a group of pictures disposed between a sequence start code and a sequence end code of the file.

25. (Currently amended) A system for analyzing a moving pictures expert group (MPEG)-formatted file, comprising:

a format analysis application; and

a processing element operable to execute the application, the application reading a rule having at least one logical instruction defining a digital versatile disc (DVD) format requirement, the rule specifying a particular portion of the file to be tested by the rule, and the application comparing the specified portion of the file with the rule, the application making a determination of validity of the file with the DVD format dependent upon a result of the comparison;

wherein the rule specifies whether the file must have a group of pictures

(GOP) header; and

wherein, upon making a determination that the file is invalid, the processor element transcodes the file.

26. (Previously presented) The system of Claim 25, wherein the application is configured to transcode the file to comply with the rule in response to a determination that the specified portion of the file violates the rule.

27. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein:  
the MPEG rule specifies a maximum bit rate value and a location within a sequence header of the file at which a bit rate encoded in the file is located, and  
the compatibility rule specifies that a GOP header must be present in the file.